

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

We regret to announce that Pinder Farre callsign ZS1AJ (ex ZS6AJ) passed away at on Wednesday 26 November. A memorial service was held at the Panorama Palms Retirement Village, Panorama, Cape Town on Friday 28 November.

Our sincerest sympathies to his relatives and friends.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL

SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS FOR AGM

SARL IARU FUND STILL GROWING

ROY NEAL, K6DUE, ISS COMMEMORATIVE EVENT PLANNED BY THE ARISS TEAM

INFORMATION REQUIRED REGARDING 46TH JOTA AND 7TH, JOTI.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE RAE

NEW ON THE SARL WEBSITE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL:

The news follows in detail

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL

Two weeks ago it was announced that all councilors had agreed to resign with effect from next year's AGM in order to allow elections to be held for a full Council. We are pleased to announce that those clubs which had been advising their members not to renew their membership of the SARL have reconsidered their recommendation in the light of the Council announcement and have advised their members to rejoin the SARL immediately.

Council welcomes these members back to the League and has agreed to extend the final date for membership renewals for this year until 31 December. This means that members who had been holding their subscriptions but who pay them before the end of the year will be counted as having continuous membership of the League and will be able to vote.

All on Council hope that this matter can now be put behind us and that we can together build a strong and united League that effectively represents the interests of all amateurs.

SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS FOR AGM

At a Council meeting on Wednesday night it was pointed out that due to the unusual situation regarding delayed renewals by the Cape, the submission date for motions should be the same as that for the nominations.

The date for submission of motions is therefore changed from 16 December to 5 January 2004 in line with the nominations.

SARL IARU FUND STILL GROWING

The SARL IARU fund is still growing. Recent donations received include R500 from the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club and R100 from the Potchefstroomse Amateurradioklub as well as several donations from individual radio amateurs.

The fund is now in its second phase, collecting funds for the 2004 membership of the IARU.

Donors are requested to please mail details of their donation to saardt@intekom.co.za or fax their details to 012 991 5651. The bank statement does in many instances not reflect the donor's name. Certificates are in preparation but some cannot be completed, as details are not available. The first batch was posted recently. Without name and address details it is impossible to mail a certificate of appreciation.

The Trust would like to thank all who have contributed to the SARL IARU Fund and urge those who have not yet made a contribution to consider the importance of the SARL and South Africa's membership of the International body. Donations may be mailed to the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust, P O Box 90438, Garsfontein 0042 or paid directly into the account at ABSA Menlyn, account number 560 142 722 branch code 335 645. Your support for Amateur Radio is appreciated.

The IARU is expected to officially welcome the SARL back into its fold this coming week.

ROY NEAL, K6DUE, ISS COMMEMORATIVE EVENT PLANNED BY THE ARISS TEAM

Noted NBC news correspondent Roy Neal, K6DUE (SK), had a vision-to make amateur radio a permanent feature on human spaceflight missions.

SA AMSAT reports that on November 28, 1983, the first step to Roy's vision was taken with the launch of the first amateur radio station on the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission. A few days later, Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL became the first on-orbit crew member to talk from space.

15 years ago, in October 1988, the Russian Amateur Radio team, led by Sergej Samburov, RV3DR, and Larry Agabekov, UA6HZ/N2WW, launched and deployed the first amateur radio station on Mir. On November 12, 1988 at the AMSAT-NA symposium in Washington DC, Leo Labutin, UA3CR (SK), started amateur radio operations by communicating with cosmonaut Musa Manorov, U2MIR, on-board Mir. Soon thereafter, hams all over the globe were talking with the cosmonauts and astronauts through the Mir amateur radio station.

The first amateur radio communications from the ISS started 3 years ago this month. On November 13, 2000, from the ISS, Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, could be heard talking to the ham radio teams located at the Energia amateur radio station, R3K, in Russia and the Goddard ISS ground station, NN1SS in the USA. Roy's vision was realized with the deployment and first operation of a permanent amateur radio station on ISS.

To commemorate Roy Neal's vision and dedication to the development of amateur space communications, the ARISS International team will be sponsoring a special event activity with the ISS crew. We have requested that the ISS Expedition crew communicate with ground-based radio amateurs during the weekend of November 29-30. Those who contact the ISS by voice or packet during this weekend and through December 2003 will be eligible for a special anniversary event certificate.

Please remember the ARISS frequencies: Voice and Packet Downlink: 145,800 (Worldwide) Voice Uplink: 145,200 for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa) Packet Uplink: 145,990 (Worldwide)

Please keep all contacts short as others will want to work the special event station.

INFORMATION REQUIRED REGARDING 46TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR JOTA AND 7TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE-ON-THE-INTERNET, JOTI. {18TH - 19TH OCTOBER 2003}

Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, the National JOTA Co-ordinator, urgently requires information for the SA National Report to be sent to World Scout HQ. Would all hams who helped scouts and/or guides to run a radio station for this year's

event kindly submit a short report on the activities which took place. This need not be long and may be hand written. Please include:- 1) a short list of the scouting activities that took place. 2) a list of the most interesting contacts, 3) a photo or two, 4) the amount of Internet activity 5) the use of other modes such as, ECHOLINK and IRLP. 6) any of your own observations, you consider important.

Dave is also interested in gauging the effect of the computer and computerized systems (ECHOLINK) on amateur radio especially in terms of the Guides and Scouts. At the moment it seems that radio and its associated antennas, etc. can be of more use to the youth movements than other systems.

We should remember that radios can still be constructed with the minimum amount of parts and cost.

You will be able to download last year's JOTA World Report from the websites www.scout.org/jota and www.scout.org/joti.

Dave's contact details are:- P.O.Box 77, Irene, 0062 or land line 012 667 2153 or e-mail davegemmell@bmknet.co.za.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE RAE

Council has agreed to make the following recommendations concerning the RAE syllabus to ICASA:

1. The use of a publicly accessible question bank will be phased out. This is to prevent candidates from passing the exam by simply memorising the answers to all the questions in the question bank.
2. An additional module will be added to the Class A RAE covering digital electronics. It will include information about basic digital electronics, microprocessors, digital modes and digital signal processing. This is in recognition of the role of digital electronics and digital signal processing in modern amateur radio, and of the growing popularity of digital modes.
3. The electronics component will be removed from the Class B RAE, which is the examination which must be passed to obtain a ZU license. This syllabus will focus on the knowledge required to operate a commercial transceiver safely, legally, correctly and without causing interference.
4. Candidates who have passed the Class B RAE and who wish to upgrade to the Class A RAE will not be required to rewrite the Regulations and Operating Procedures paper, since this paper is the same for both classes of RAE.

Council believes that the simplification of the Class B syllabus and the replacement of the Morse requirement for the ZU license by a Practical Operating Test provides the ideal way for us to create a simple entry-level license for new amateurs, similar to the very successful Foundation License in Britain. The ZU

license will have access to segments of the 160, 80, 40, 10, 2-metre and 70 cm bands with a maximum power of 20 W.

We see this as an exciting opportunity to increase the number of newcomers to our hobby and hope that many of them will progress to ZR and ZS licenses.

Further information can be found in a detailed report titled “Review of the Radio Amateur Examination Syllabus in South Africa” which can be downloaded from the SARL web site.

NEW ON THE SARL WEBSITE

Ever wondered what the person on the other end of the mic looks like? Now the SARL call book allows you to add a photo to your call book entry so that people who you've chatted to can see who they've been talking to.

At present photos can only be posted by members, but members can post for anyone, so if you know a member get them to post a photo for you. Or even better, join the SARL and enjoy all the other online features that members have access to.

Photos must be in JPG format and no bigger than 40 kb. (Byte size) Photos display best if they are 400x300 pixels. (Physical size)

INCORRECT INVOICES SENT OUT BY ICASA

Unfortunately, ICASA has sent out incorrect invoices to all those candidates who passed the October Radio Amateur's Examination. These invoices do not reflect the payments which have already been made to ICASA. If you have received one of these invoices please ignore it.

Payment has been made by the SARL to ICASA in respect of all candidates, and the matter is being urgently taken up with ICASA.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Last day for submission of motions for the AGM as well as nominations for council members is now 5 January 2004. Final date for renewal of membership of SARL is now 31 December.

You are invited to join the President's net which will once again take to the airwaves today at 12:00. Please take the opportunity to listen to and pose your questions directly to SARL President Graham Harlett, ZS6GJH, and other councillors. The net will be transmitted on HF on 7 082, 10 125 and 14 282 kHz, and will be relayed onto many local VHF repeaters around the country.

The SARL also invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX